Mapping Jargon

AGRC: State of Utah's Automated Geographic Reference Center. Provides a large library of GIS and Google Earth (KMZ) data for the public.

ArcGIS Online: web-based mapping software; creates interactive maps; data saved on ESRI servers

ArcMap/ArcGIS Desktop: desktop based software for mapping and analysis; steep learning-curve

Coordinates: representing points on a planar or spherical surface; such as latitude/longitude

Georeference: Aligning geographic data to a known coordinate system so it can be viewed, queried, and analyzed with other geographic data. Involves shifting, rotating, scaling, skewing the data.

GIS: geographic information system

KML: a file format used to display geographic data in Google Earth

KMZ: a compressed or zipped version of Google Earth's KML file

Orthophoto: aerial photograph geometrically corrected such that the scale is uniform; lacks distortion.

Shapefile: geographic features represented by points, lines or polygons used in ArcGIS mapping programs.

